

a brain. And it won't stop! The current TS magazines are a great source of information. Each new computer model seems to sprout a magazine champion plus older magazines try to meld a combination of all computers. Readers should not complain of these improvements but some do. There is a fear that their particular model will loose attention. It all depends upon author input, not the magazine policy.

Magazines are like newsletters, if there is no article input the editors have little to publish. As editors, we try to assemble enough material for each issue. THE PLOTTER is one of the few monthly publications left. Lucky that we have been receiving an article now and then from subscribers because input from members is lacking.

It looks like another good year for the computer buffs and our newsletter intends to continue to dispense the latest news on schedule.

SECRETARY'S

SECRETS

CCATS meeting of February 10, 1989, was brought to order by Mike Carver at 8:25. Before the meeting we watched another of the video tapes showing the capabilities of the computer combined with the telephone to distribute and deliver information over great distances.

The first order of business was the progress made by the committee to make up the new club cards. Tim Woods was not present due to other engagement, and Rod Gowan said that they had no progress to report at this time.

There was then a discussion on whether or not to vote on the new by-laws. It was then moved and seconded to distribute copies to each member at the next meeting and give each member a chance to read and then vote at the following meeting.

It was brought out that there is space on the bulletin board for more uploading, but if it is not used by the members it may not be available for long.

The committee to plan our dinner meeting was unable to stay for the meeting so we will wait to hear from him until next month. Jack Armstrong offered to have the dinner at his home but the members thought this would put quite a burden on his wife. Thank you Jack for the very kind thought.

Rod Gowan showed us a copy of the new magazine "PIPE LINE" that Tim Woods is putting together.

Mike Carver showed an article on the Z88. It is certainly getting a lot of interest all over the world.

At this point the meeting was ajorned for side discussion on various subjects.

Respectfully,

Betty Schaffler

Secretary

BITS & BYTES

by: ROD GOWEN

Heard any TS related news lately? Did you get any information in the mail from other users, user groups, or vendors that may be of interest to our readers? If so, why not share it with us? We need all of the help that we can get. Please send any info that you might have to: Rod Gowan, C/O CCAT/S, 1419 1/2 7th Street, Oregon City, OR 97045, or, phone in at: 503/655-7484, NOON - 10 PM weekdays. I know that the entire user group will appreciate it!

TIME DESIGNS MAGAZINE-

IS ARRIVING!!! We have been receiving calls to that effect. If you are among the people who have not yet received your copy of the SEPT/OCT issue of TDM, we recommend that you write or call TDM at 29722 HULT ROAD, COLTON, OR 97017, or call 503/824-2658. Tell them that you are a subscriber and that you have not received the SEPT/OCT issue and they will send a new copy out by first class mail. They are really trying. Give them a chance!

PIPE*LINE-

Is the newest magazine being published by TIME DESIGNS MAGAZINE. They are not editing it, just publishing it. It is a great new magazine for all of the Z88 users in the country. At \$24.95/year, we think it will impress you. PIPE*LINE is being edited by PAUL BINGHAM. For more information, write or call TDM at the address above.

REMEMBER WHEN BBS-

is getting a lot of use. We are very happy to see it being used. There are now several files in the download area and TIME DESIGNS MAG even has their own SIG for you to upload files into for publication in the mag. TDM also has a message base so that, if you like, you can leave a message to Tim Woods. We have run into one MAJOR BUG in getting the BBS more users! It seems that some folks have received the WRONG PHONE #! The correct number is 503/652-5803 and

the settings are B/1/N.

RMG ENTERPRISES-

as noted last time, now has the complete inventory from E-Z KEY and now can announce that they have the entire inventory from FOOTIE SOFTWARE. If any of you are interested in what items are available, just send a legal S.A.S.E. to RMG ENTERPRISES, 1419 1/2 7TH STREET, OREGON CITY, OR 97045.

CCAT/S DINNER MEETING-

that has been set for the May meeting nite is still on. We had voted to hold it at Norths Chuck Wagon on McLaughlin BLVD, but after speaking to BOB EVANS, we find that they were unable to guarantee that they could seat our group together, so Bob is looking into Denny's or GATES restaurant. He will give a report at the March meeting.

NEW DTP!-

has arrived! We have received a review copy of WORDMASTER for the Spectrum and the Larken disk system. Upon initial checkout it seems to be as we had heard- FANTASTIC! After we have a chance to do some further testing, we will report back in this column.

MS-DOS FOR THE QL-

as was announced in the last PLOTTER, will soon be at your favorite dealers. We have received notice that, due to some further debugging being needed, there will be a slight delay in shipment of the program. We are hoping to see them arrive about the end of March. Keep watching, we will keep you posted.

TILL NEXT TIME-----.....

LARKEN LINES

by: ROD GOWEN

We are back again! Christmas is just around the corner and I am sure you are all getting your lists of Larken items you want posted all around the house as gentle hints!

MAXCOMM!-

IS HERE! AND IT IS GREAT!

We now have it in stock and are shipping to any who order it. It is \$25 plus \$2 shipping from RMG. Larry really out-did himself on this one. We have been playing with it and have found it to be very easy to use. We are hoping to have a review soon. Keep watching.

NEW SOFTWARE

from Larken is on the way. Larry called us the other night and was very excited about a new program is in the works. It seems that he is working in a package that will allow you to do desktop publishing in a MAC-LIKE environment. It is being written in "modular" format. That is, the program is written in blocks of 8-10K and each block is loaded into memory as it is needed. This is the ONLY way to program in a machine that limits the amount of programming and work space you have. It leaves a maximum amount of space available for your data. We are looking for a release date sometime around the middle or end of April. If we know Larken, allow an additional 2-4 weeks, at least.

It has been decided that there will no longer be a RAMDISK offered for sale as

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a complete, ready-to-run hardware add-on. We will be trying to market a "semi-kit". It would include the printed circuit board, a card edge connector, a cardedge, a small slide switch, required list and complete assembly instructions. We will note that this project should not be attempted by anyone short of an EXPERT at soldering and pcb assembly. It is too easy to damage or destroy the board. Projected price should be in the \$25-35 range. With additional parts running about \$8-12, you should be able to get your board for about \$33-47, not counting the RAM chips or batteries. More on this later.

Larry tells us that the SEQUENTIAL FILING PROGRAM will be finished BEFORE the release of the new package noted above. It will be \$15 as advertised earlier. We will note in this column when it is available.

Any of you have any tips for the use of LKDOS or a small program you would like to see published? If so, you can send it to us here at THE PLOTTER or upload it to the TS area (10) of the Remember When BBS and it will be published. We need your input. Without it, you may see this column go the way of so many others.

KEEP TSing and using your LKDOS!!—

SORRY—

WRONG NUMBER!!

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

If you have been trying to get through to the REMEMBER WHEN BBS and have not

been able to, perhaps it is because you have a wrong number!

Due to a typo in our big announcement of the new name for BBSers and telecomm in the great NW, we have had folks unable to get on our new board. The number was given as 503/653-5803. THIS IS NOT CORRECT! THE CORRECT NUMBER IS:

REMEMBER WHEN BBS

503/652-5803

Don't give up! Give it a try! If you have a message for TIME DESIGNS MAG or RMG ENTERPRISES or any of the TSers in the Portland area, just give it a call. The settings again, are: 8/1/N and you can call 24 hours a day. We are also now on ECHOMAIL. Node 105/204. You will not be able to get on the board between the hours of midnight and 2 AM Pacific time due to transfer of mail and board maintenance.

Give it a try. We'll be looking for you!

SPECTRUM SOFTWARE:
FROM ENGLAND TO YOUR MAILBOX

By: Anthony Willing
Vashon, Washington

After hearing that most sources for Spectrum software in the U.S. have dried up, I decided to write to England directly and see what could be shipped "over the pond". I had heard many horror stories of companies that would charge orders to cards but never ship, so naturally I was wary. On the advice of a British pen-pal, I steered away from software discounters advertising in SINCLAIR USER and chose to write to the manufactures instead. I had the address of MICRO PROSE, famous for their "simulation software", and I had seen "F-15 STRIKE EAGLE" in action on a friend's Atari, so, taking a chance, I wrote them a letter requesting a copy of "F-15" for the Spectrum and supplied my VISA number as payment. I was pleasantly surprised a month later to see a large manilla envelope in my mailbox bearing the legend "MICRO PROSE" and large customs stamps. The charge amount, taking the exchange rate into account, was \$19.51 including shipping.

"F-15 STRIKE EAGLE" contains a comprehensive 40 page flight manual, 2 help sheets, a warranty card and the single cassette. The program is simply the BEST FLIGHT SIMULATOR for the 2068/Spectrum I have seen--the graphics are smooth and detailed. The flight control is as quick as you'd expect a jet fighter's to be. And there are enough "bells and whistles" to satisfy any combat pilot. Your F-15

has machine guns, bombs, two types of missiles, three range radar and defense systems--THE WORKS!

There are 4 levels of play, from "ROOKIE" to "ACE", seven combat missions, enough to keep you interested for weeks, and plenty of enemy missiles and MIGS to keep you from accomplishing the combat missions. Also, I heartily recommend this game! It still holds my interest long into the night. I have also found an added bonus--the game runs on my unexpanded 2068--no Spectrum emulator in sight. I can't explain this nor guarantee that it will work on everyone's 2068. BUT mine works in Spectrum or 2068 mode (as does their WW2 submarine simulator, "SILENT SERVICE"). For more informationn and other games, contact:

MICRO PROSE SOFTWARE, LTD. 2,
MARKET PLACE, TETBURY,
GLOUCESTERSHIRE GL8 801
ENGLAND (TEL: (0666) 54326

BIG MASS STORAGE!!!

Reprint from THE HEARLD of
Pleasanton, CA Jan 25 1989 issue.

LIVERMORE: Robotic arms fitted with metal pincers and television cameras are helping researchers at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory retrieve stored computer data.

The \$1.75 million system, called Cimarron, consists of five white silos with robotic arms and thousands of data-filled data cartridges.

The system takes 10 to 40 seconds to retrieve and load a cartridge and it holds 5,000 gigabytes worth of data. A single byte is a character.

That is the equivalent of 5 million average length novels or 60 times the amount of data contained in the Livermore public library, said Samuel Coleman, the lab's computer storage leader.

New Cray supercomputers, which do number crunching and simulations, produce so much data that the lab's computer experts have had a hard time finding a storage system to keep up with their needs.

So they developed their own software to connect the Cimarron devices with the other storage systems they already had on line.

The new system and software allow for data to be automatically transferred from local disks at each computer to cartridge. Data is stored depending on how often it is used and how big a file it is, so that the most often used material can be called up quickly, said Coleman.

The robotic arm searches for a requested cartridge by scanning the storage slots to find where the tape was placed, and double-checks the tape number before loading it into a terminal to be read.

Even with the new storage space, the lab is already expecting a new Cray supercomputer which will demand even more storage space.

"We write in a month what it took us six years to write data-wise in the 1960s", said Principal Associate Director for Computations John Ranelletti.

The next upgrade in storage capacity will most likely come from an increase in the capacity of cartridges, Coleman said.

The new storage system is for the lab's classified computer network. Though the software which runs the Cimarron system is unclassified, Coleman said there was no chance of a bug or virus infecting the system.

Only 12 lab employees have access to the UNIX part of the system where the software is run and all those employees have security clearance, he said.

The lab's unclassified UNIX system was plagued by computer worms and hackers late last year.

About 3,500 lab employees have access to the Cray Computers but only about 2,000 people use them regularly, Coleman said.

The new system is replacing an Autmated Tape Library system which stored and played data recorded on 1/2-inch tapes. But the machine, which is supposed to automatically retrieve tapes like a jukebox retrieves records, was never very reliable, Coleman said.

CALCULATE A SINKING FUND

Dick F. Wagner

Sinking funds, an amount established or accumulated for a specific purpose, may be a part of a savings account or an investment plan. Consider calculating a part of monthly savings/investment to determine when a specific amount of accumulated interest can be withdrawn to meet a specific need at a specific time. How much must be dedicated to the account to generate the interest required?

This basic equation is the one to use:

$$S=A(r)/((1+r)^n-1)$$

where S is the amount of monthly payment into the account

A=amount accumulated (your need)

r=interest in %/(12*100)

n=number of periods as months

This equation is reworked to fit the program needs:

```
100 INPUT "How much do you need to
accumulate? $";AMT
110 INPUT "What is the annual
interest rate in %";R;" of the
investment or savings account?"
115 LET r=(R/(12*100))
120 INPUT "How many months for the
investment to run to meet your need?"
;n
130 LET S=AMT*(r/((1+r)^n-1))
140 PRINT "You will need to deposit
$";S;" monthly for ";n;" months to
produce $";AMT
150 INPUT "If the amount does
accumulate to exactly cents then
ENTER 'F'. If not then ENTER 'C';x$
160 IF x$="F" THEN STOP: IF x$="C"
THEN GOTO 170
170 INPUT "If your deposits are not
exactly the amount to the last cent,
use the next higher cent and INPUT
the new amount $";t
200 REM change equation to
205 REM A=t*((1+r)^n)/r
210 REM recalculate the last
payment
220 LET A=t*(((1+r)^(n-1)-1)/r)
225 REM last payment LP=Amount
AMT-(A*(1+r))
230 LET LP=AMT-(A*(1+r))
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240 PRINT "You will be making
payments of \$";t;" for ";(n-1);"
months, and a last payment of
\$";LP;" to produce \$";AMT;" in
interest".

OLIGER SAFE V 2.5 DISK OPERATING SYSTEM

Dick Wagner

CONTINUED FROM THE DECEMBER ISSUE--

NMI (non maskable interrupt) SAVE is accomplished by pressing the NMI button and any numbered key from 1-0. Loaded as an ABS type.

NMI SCREEN\$ COPY accomplished by pressing the NMI switch and the "Z" key.

NMI SCREEN\$ SAVE is accomplished with the NMI switch plus keys Q, W, E, R, and T to give these saves the names A, B, C, D, and E, respectively.

NMI BREAK (KEY) uses the NMI switch and then "C" to return to BASIC after a NMI save.

NMI RESET is used for a system reset. Hold the "N" key down and then press the NMI switch.

MOVE/ commands (3) as "name" type, to copy a file to the next drive; "name" type TO n, (0-3) moves the named file to the defined drive (in either direction); MOVE/, copies the whole disk to the next drive.

RESTORE/ commands (3) RESTORE/S, resets to power-on defaults; "name" type TO "newname" changes a file name; "new disk name" changes the disk name.

COPY/ command copies the current display file to a large printer. Also copies to a 2040 printer.

ERASE/"name" type, removes a file from the disk. All later files are moved up in position. An old name can be reused.

VERIFY/"name" type, checks to see that the file is saved properly. Used to make a duplicate verification as all files are so verified automatically.

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FOR/n TO m or FOR/m is a special FOR-NEXT loop that is very fast. Can be used only once in a program.

NEXT is the looping statement. Does not use an argument.

NOTE: as the above are mostly not complete operating descriptions reference to the manual should be made for complete details.

--THE END--

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

The editorial contains some reassuring information about the status of our membership, newsletter exchange program with other user groups, and the number of subscribers. RMG Enterprises makes the subscriber contacts thru their catalog. A monthly production of 50 to 60 copies is a nice operating range, not too time consuming to print the pages both sides, do the sorting, stapling, folding, labeling and stamping. It actually takes me about 4 hours to do all of this plus the driving time to the print shop. Mailing would also be included in this.

The actual assembly of the newsletter preparatory for mass printing takes about 6 to 8 hours as there are a lot of fitting and finishing details. Material I generate in advance is stored on disk for final printing to fit the column spaces. Sections are block printed to length with additional spaces at the column breaks for cutting. Sometimes extra headings for submitted articles are printed to fit.

Preliminary work is required to pre-print pages 1 and 8, the only pages that can be printed in advance as forms. Page 8 is printed in quantity as it does not change. Page 1 must be printed each time because it is dated and it seems that our meeting dates are not known in advance.

Articles are cut and pasted to a base sheet to hold each page together. Page numbers and any "continued" symbols required are added to each finished page.

Of course, there is always a final gap to fill, so something like this special column is developed to do that. After everything is in place it is necessary to develop a table of contents for the front page.

I am always on the lookout for ideas and programs to use. These are developed in advance and stored on disk for future use. Often a preliminary copy is produced for proof reading and this is filed for material reference so I don't lose track of what I have.

How much time is required to be Editor? My wife says it is too much. Anyway, I really don't know but is by far the most time consuming volunteer job in our user group. There are some months where 16 hours would be short of the time put in. There is a membership list printed for the members, plus additions at times. Add to this the record keeping of a mailing list. Then there are special projects like developing the program for printing the logo on page 1 so it is not a paste-on thing. And then add copying articles like the "The Herald" article. Then add developing programs that may come in handy like the Interest program this month. I have had that one in the file for a long time.

Fortunately some columns are provided by members on a monthly basis. Rod Gowen usually has 2 columns, Secretary Betty Schaffler provides the business meeting minutes and Chairman Mike Carver usually has a front page column. Sooooo, The Editor fills in as required to fit in around any submitted articles that are used.

We do receive some nice input at times from subscribers and once in a while an article from another newsletter is used. For instance, Richard Hurd from Seaside has submitted several articles and programs. Recently new subscriber Dottie Bundy in Ventura Cal. has sent some very nice screen dump pictures plus copies of the Screen\$. I hope to obtain additional information from Dottie on her procedures for producing her pictures.

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We also received an article from Donald Lambert, a member of CRAIGIST, the Cedar Rapids And Greater Iowa Sinclair Timex user group. His article is on a battery backup for a TS 1000. This will be used at a future time. The CRAIGIST user group has a membership of 5 at this time, down from 6.

Another small group from Vashon, WA has Tony Willing who has an article in this issue. They also have about 6 members. Tony is the Librarian for the newly formed national user group, TSNUG. Tony's group has developed an excellent library of TS 1000 and 2068 programs. These library tapes will no longer be offered for sale after the end of February.

I'm allergic to
mornings



By: Dottie Bundy

—NOTICE—

Opinions expressed in articles are not necessarily those of members of the Clackamas County Area T/S User Group. Meeting minutes carry the consensus of members present at meetings. This newsletter nor staff will be held liable for any damage or consequences due to following instructions, or review of products as contained in this newsletter.

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THE MONTH AD IS TO RUN.

***** —B— *****

CCAT/S

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